

## 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. unleashes Operation Devil Fury

Story and photos by Sgt. Greg Heath  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

*(Editor's note: this is part one of a two part series on 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div.'s participation in Operation Devil Fury in southern Afghanistan.)*

**PAKTIKA PROVINCE**, Afghanistan – The Blue Devils of 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division took on the last mission of their nearly eight month deployment in Afghanistan when they participated in Operation Devil Fury starting Aug. 9 in the southern village of Megal, in Paktika Province.

Company C and a detachment from Co. D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment's mission was to find and deny haven to any Anti Coalition Militants (ACM) in the area and to retrieve a satellite phone that, according to Special Forces intelligence, had been used from a compound within the village to urge Afghans to "attack American forces."

Two days before the mission began, Army Special Forces soldiers in the area were am-



*Blue Devil soldiers temporarily detain an Afghan during a hard breach of his home. They recently participated in Operation Devil Fury.*

bushed by ACM forces, and since then, had been intercepting local satellite phone calls from ACM to Gayan, Afghanistan, a city 10 kilometers north of Megal, where two other 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div. companies were operating.

At the onset of the mission, the Blue Devils were air assaulted near the suspected site of the intercepted calls.

See **FURY**, Page 4

## EOD team explodes into combat zone; first time ever

Story by Pfc. Kelly Hunt  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Combined Joint Task Force 180's Explosive Ordnance headquarters has gone where no other National Guard Explosive Ordnance Disposal battalion has before; a combat zone. For the first time in its history, the battalion has been activated to complete the EOD presence by joining forces with the four active battalions already at work.

Troops from the 441<sup>st</sup> Ord. Bn. (EOD), Huntsville, Ala., arrived on site July 21, as the fifth ordnance battalion (EOD) actively working now. As the forth rotation on the airbase, the 441<sup>st</sup> job is to

provide support to personnel on Bagram Air Field by ridding the area of hazardous unexploded ordnance.

"This is a first because this is showing how the National Guard has incorporated itself into the one Army concept," said Lt. Col. Jose Atencio III, 441<sup>st</sup> Ord. Bn. (EOD) commander.

The six ordnance battalions, consisting of four active duty battalions, the 441<sup>st</sup> and one more National Guard battalion not yet activated, stretch across the globe, said Atencio. From the United States to Iraq and now in Afghanistan, troops are making the difference.

"I think this is one of the biggest moves EOD has done, because we are in all theaters," he said. "Everyone is looking toward EOD as part of their

force package."

This is new territory for the 441<sup>st</sup>, which is now included in essential missions as a support element.

"We have teams from subordinate companies embedded in a lot of operations, so when (troops) find something, they call the (EOD) team forward," said Atencio. "They either do an onsite destruction or we come back and do an operation."

It's a big job, he said. There's a lot of new ground here and we have some opportunities ahead of us, he added.

See **ZONE**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Blindfolded Iraqi detainees sit in a military truck at a U.S. Army base in Tikrit, Iraq, this week.*

## Blast kills American soldier north of Baghdad Wednesday

CNN—One American soldier was killed and another wounded Wednesday when their armored personnel carrier ran over an improvised explosive device north of the Iraqi capital, U.S. military officials said.

The explosion took place on an access road off Highway 2 around Wednesday morning near Ad Dwar as a convoy from the 4th Infantry Division was heading to a training area.

The wounded soldier was reported to be in stable condition.

This latest death brings to 268 the number of U.S. troops killed since the Iraq war began—175 combat deaths and 93 deaths in “nonhostile” situations. Wednesday’s fatality is the 60th that U.S. forces have incurred in combat since President Bush declared an end to major fighting in Iraq on May 1.

Four American soldiers died Tuesday—one when a convoy hit an improvised explosive device in the vicinity of Taji; a second when a convoy hit three such devices north of Ramadi, a central town west of Baghdad; a third in his sleep at a base camp in Ramadi; and a fourth in a traffic accident in the northern city of Mosul.

As part of Operation Ivy Lightning, the 4th Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse have been conducting a series of raids around Saddam Hussein’s ancestral homeland of Tikrit in north-central Iraq, military officials said.

On Tuesday, U.S. forces captured a former chief of staff of the Iraqi Republican Guard, along

with a general and a dozen other Iraqis south of Tikrit, a U.S. Army spokesman said.

The 14 prisoners—described as members of a family closely associated with the deposed Iraqi president—were captured in raids on 20 houses conducted over a three-hour period, said Lt. Col. Steve Russell.

About 200 U.S. soldiers, including Special Operations Forces personnel, participated in the raids, which also netted a small number of weapons, Russell said.



*Lakhani arrives at a federal courthouse in Newark, New Jersey.*

## Man accused of smuggling missile into U.S. charged

NEWARK, N.J.—A British citizen accused of smuggling a shoulder-launched, surface-to-air missile into the United States for use in a terrorist attack against a U.S. commercial airliner was charged Wednesday in federal court.

Hemant Lakhani was arrested Tuesday in a sting operation—the result of an 18-month effort involving historic cooperation between intelligence officials in the United States and Russia. Britain also played a key role, U.S. officials said.

“The fact that we’re able to sting this guy is a pretty good example of what we’re doing in order to protect the American people,” said President Bush at his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Lakhani, who was born in India, could face 25 years in prison if he is convicted on the two counts against him: providing material support to terrorists and illegal weapons dealing.

According to federal prosecutors, the international arms dealer, who boasted of sales to terrorist groups, thought he had struck a deal to sell a missile to a Somali group looking to launch a “jihad” against a U.S. plane. He tried to sell the group 200 missiles, and insisted that they buy 50 after they received the first one.

The price for that first missile: \$85,000.

The man claiming to represent the Somali group was in fact an informant for the United States; the missile he brought into the country was a dud; and the undercover Russian authorities who sold it to him were in on the whole plan.

“This morning, the terrorists who threatened America lost an ally in their quest to kill our citizens,” said Christopher J. Christie, U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey.



*A rebel soldier strikes a looter at the Liberian port.*

## Hungry Liberians storm port

MONROVIA, Liberia—Thousands of hungry Liberians stormed Monrovia’s port in a massive looting spree as rebel fighters prepared to hand it over to U.S.-backed West African peacekeepers.

CNN’s Jeff Koinange reported from the scene Wednesday: “They are taking whatever they can—vehicles, furniture, electrical appliances, food. It is an unbelievable scene. They are literally stripping the port dry.”

He said some looters were running away carrying on their heads heavy sacks of food brought to Liberia by aid agencies “literally under the gaze of the LURD rebels.”

The LURD rebels have promised to pull out of the port noon Thursday to allow food shipments to hundreds of thousands of hungry civilians in a city where recent fighting left 2,000 dead.

U.S. Cobra helicopters could be seen circling over the port area but were making no attempt to land.

Liberian President Moses Blah said fighter planes from a U.S. task force would soon start patrols to help bring peace, after the flight into exile of leader Charles Taylor raised hopes of an end to nearly 14 years of strife.



# B-2 drops 80 test bombs in California

Story by 2nd Lt. Brooke Davis  
Air Force Flight Test Center Public Affairs

**EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** — In an effort to increase the B-2 Spirit's operational capability, a test force here conducted an airborne release of 80 Joint Direct Attack Munitions separation test vehicles. The separation test vehicles are inert weapons used to collect data.

The test was one of more than nine sorties flown as a build-up toward equipping the aircraft to carry and release up to 80 JDAMs on a single missions, according to Mark Burke, 419th Flight Test Squadron project manager. The purpose of the build-up approach is to reduce the risk of aircraft collision with the weapons, explained Burke.

"The overall objective of this program is to integrate the Smart Bomb Release Assembly and JDAM-82 into the B-2," said Burke. "This improved capability will allow the B-2 to carry 80 JDAMs."

The brains of the SBRA are the Smart Bomb Rack Controller and the Stores Management Operational Flight Program. This allows the weapons to be released at specific intervals, according to Burke. The JDAM-82, a 500-pound smart bomb, is able to communicate with the aircraft through a cable, instructing the weapon to strike a specific target.

The vehicles used during the drop are not considered smart weapons because target data will not be passed to the weapon, said Burke. Data collected from each sortie will be analyzed by the Air Force Seek Eagle Office at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Officials use this data to certify the safety of new weapons on aircraft, and the B-2 test program is required to have AFSEO clearance before progressing to the next release sortie.

"Once all of the data collected from the STV release is analyzed by AFSEO, the program will progress into the demo phase," said Burke. "The demo phase will be an end-to-end test that proves the capabilities of the SBRA and JDAM-82 weapons load."

The demo phase is a two-part mission that will be flown from Edwards to the Utah Testing and Training Range at Hill AFB, Utah, Burke explained.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "The Outlaw Josey Wales." A Missouri farmer joins a Confederate guerilla unit and winds up on the run from the Union soldiers who murdered his family.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Ride with the Devil."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Mostly clear H: 93F L: 72F	Mostly clear H: 93F L: 68F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 100F L: 66F	Dusty H: 102F L: 68F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 93F L: 61F	Haze H: 91F L: 64F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Clear H: 103F L: 64F	Clear H: 105F L: 62F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

CJTF-180 Commander —

Maj. Gen. John R. Vines

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Rodney Davis

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Sgt. Maj. Harrison Saries

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Commander — Maj. Matthew L. Garner

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson

Editor — Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson

Journalists — Sgt. Stephanie Hall,

Sgt. Gregory Heath, Pfc. Kelly Hunt

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of Freedom Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM web site at [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil) and click on the Freedom Watch or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get to the Freedom Watch. To be added to the daily distribution list e-mail [ThompsonJ@baf.cjtf180.army.mil](mailto:ThompsonJ@baf.cjtf180.army.mil)

## FURY, from Page 1

As AH-64 Apache helicopters swarmed overhead providing close air support, one squad quickly set up vehicle check points to search any local Afghans passing through, and the rest of the company moved swiftly to the targeted compound.

Due to the intelligence received and the ambush on Special Forces soldiers days prior, the infantry soldiers took a more aggressive approach than in previous missions while dealing with the local villagers.

"This area has had the most imminent threat of all the areas we've been to because the threats said over the cell phones," according to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jamel Carr, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon leader.

For the first time during their deployment, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn. Div. soldiers were authorized to conduct "hard breaches" while entering Afghan compounds.

During a hard breach, soldiers entering a compound stack behind each other by the entrance, and then they storm in with weapons raised and secure all of the rooms and make sure they are clear of any enemies forces.

Normally soldiers conduct a "soft breach" when working in villages, which is a passive approach toward locals.

As the soldiers approached the targeted compound, an Afghan male walked outside and the soldiers quickly subdued him and held him for questioning.

After a thorough search, the satellite phone wasn't found. Soldiers did confiscate small arms ammunition from the Afghan male and then released him.

The soldiers continued to search homes in the nearby village, and most of the locals were cooperative with the US soldiers.

That same day, Special Forces units operating in the same vil-



*Blue Devil soldiers occupy a home as they search for weapons and explosives possibly left behind by Anti Coalition Militants during Operation Devil Fury.*

lage confronted four ACMs who participated in the ambush on US forces two days earlier.

Three of the men surrendered and were taken into custody, but one of the men tried to flee on foot and after not responding to three warning shots was killed by Special Forces soldiers.

While searching one compound Blue Devil soldiers retrieved an anti-aircraft machine gun that, according to Carr, was the largest weapon they had found during their deployment.

The stripped-down weapon was hidden under bales of hay, along with approximately 200 rounds, small arms magazines, ammo carrying systems and a can of gunpowder.

The owner of the home was taken into custody.

"Normally we're friendly with them," said Spc. Doug Thomas, a team leader. "But if the locals are helping (the ACM) then they're the enemy too."

## ZONE, from Page 1

"I think we're doing a job that needs to be done here," said Atencio. "There's a lot of unexploded ordnance out there, so there's plenty of work (to be done)."

EOD personnel play a large role in the mission, he said. "What we do is locate, identify and render safe foreign and domestic ordnance that has either not exploded or needs to be destroyed."

The team is also able to handle improvised explosive devices that are in country, "exploit those items, do technical intelligence on them and get that information back out in the field so people know what they are up against."

IED's and the weather are the two major challenges that EOD personnel are faced with here.

For safety reasons, personnel work in teams and never separate from those teams. Troops are always keeping their eyes open for possible threats that they can eliminate and any information they can disperse that would save lives in the long run.

"If we can exploit that and get (the information) out to the rest of the world, maybe (we can)

save lives," he said. "That's the big thing; to save lives and equipment."

To become EOD personnel, troops went through two phases of training. "The first phase is 10 weeks at Redstone (Arsenal, Ala.) and the second phase, consisting of 27 weeks of training, is located at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida."

All the training helped troops prepare for this deployment, but what helped them the most was the stateside train-up time they received just before coming to Afghanistan.

The 441<sup>st</sup> made it's way from Huntsville, Ala. to Fort Lewis, Wash., Dec. 23, and ended up in control of 16 companies, Atencio said.

The time at Fort Lewis offered them a chance to hone the skills they would be using in Afghanistan.

"What helped us was being stateside for the first six to seven months," said Atencio. "It allowed us to establish our rhythm and focus on the mission."

Shortly after arriving, the 441<sup>st</sup> was faced with a difficult task. An estimated 40,000 pounds of ordnance was found stored in a cave in the Ayubkhel Valley. The job was a large one and it

was also one of their first.

But according to Atencio, troops handled the situation well and without incident.

"That's what we train for," he said. "That's one of the things we look forward to; to get out there and work."

"That's where they want to be; out in the field (to) do those jobs."

They came back ready to do another job, Atencio said.

EOD plays an important role in the survival of the mission in Bagram and without EOD, the combatant commanders have lost something in the fight, said Atencio.

"We can bring to them an element that will help them succeed in their mission and force protection," he said.

You can't just move in and blow things up, he said. The particulars of the specific ordnance is the key to a safe disposal. "You've got to know everything you can about the item before you destroy it."

"We bring an element to the fight that offers the combatant commander an option and some flexibility," Atencio said.



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

## Assault trial may impact Lakers' season

**EAGLE, Colo.** — If Kobe Bryant is treated like any other defendant, as the Eagle County prosecutor has maintained he will be, then Bryant's basketball schedule could be impacted considerably.

Bryant is scheduled to return to Eagle for his preliminary hearing on Oct. 9, and legal experts told the *Washington Post* that Colorado felony cases generally come to trial five to six months after that hearing, the paper reported in Wednesday's editions.



**Kobe Bryant**

If that schedule holds, Bryant could find himself in court, rather than on the court, as the NBA regular season winds down. The Lakers' regular season finale is April 14, and the trial could impact the Lakers' playoff hopes.

By state law, the trial must start within six months, unless the defendant agrees to further delays. Even if the trial is postponed until after the NBA season, however, Bryant could suffer some basketball ramifications.

The Lakers, one of the preseason favorites to win the 2003-04 NBA title, could be playing well into June if they advance deep into the playoffs. The 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, for which Bryant currently is a member of the U.S. basketball team, begin August 13. Bryant's participation in the Games clearly could be compromised by a trial that began after the NBA season.

"Trials get delayed for a lot of reasons," said Craig Silverman, a defense attorney and former prosecutor in Denver, to the Post. "But it's hard to imagine a way this trial could be delayed beyond the season, beyond the playoffs, and beyond the Olympics."

Bryant's next step is mandatory attendance at the preliminary hearing, which comes in the middle of the Lakers' preseason schedule and could force him to miss some action.

After the preliminary hearing will come Bryant's arraignment, which must occur by Nov. 8, and for which Bryant must be present. At that session, Bryant will enter his formal plea and the judge will set a trial date.

The Lakers have five games in the first week of November.

## Iraq, Afghanistan invited to Olympics

**LAUSANNE, Switzerland** — Exactly a year before the opening ceremony, Iraq and Afghanistan were among the record 201 countries invited Wednesday to compete in the Athens Olympics.

With concerns lingering over whether Athens will be ready, IOC president Jacques Rogge and organizing chief Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki marked the one-year countdown by sending out official invitations to the world's national Olympic committees.

The first invitation went to Greece because it is the birthplace of the Olympics and was the host of the first modern games in 1896.

"I find it quite amusing I'm here at this ceremony inviting the

president of the Greek Olympic Committee to participate in the games in his own country, but that is the tradition," Rogge said.

Rogge signed personal invitations for 17 of the 201 recognized committees. They included Afghanistan, whose Olympic committee was suspended by the IOC under the Taliban regime but was reinstated last month, as well as recently recognized East Timor and Kiribati.

"It is symbolic that the IOC is sending out invitations to all the countries of the world, and all the countries of the world will be represented," Rogge said. "Afghanistan athletes, Iraqi athletes and athletes from East Timor — all three countries have been affected by war in recent years."

Iraq's committee is still awaiting formal recognition from the IOC. In the meantime Rogge will send the invitation to the provisional Olympic body.

The IOC dissolved Iraq's Olympic program, formerly headed by Saddam Hussein's son, Oday, who was accused of torturing and jailing athletes.

A three-member IOC delegation visited Baghdad last month to help set up a new committee and identify potential Olympic athletes.

## Jags sign first-round holdout Leftwich

**ESPN** — The long holdout of Jacksonville Jaguars first-round draft choice Byron Leftwich finally ended Tuesday night when the former Marshall quarterback reached a contract agreement on a seven-year deal.

The contract will void to five years if Leftwich achieves minimum playing time levels.

Leftwich, 23, was the last of the 2003 first-round selections to come to contract terms, and his deal came just hours after Willis McGahee reached an agreement with the Buffalo Bills. Leftwich's deal also comes just one day after sources close to the quarterback told ESPN.com that the two sides were not close to striking a deal.

While the complete financial details of the package were not immediately available, the deal could be worth as much as about \$30 million, but only if Leftwich cashed in on all of the incentives and escalators. A more realistic figure, based on projections that he will become the starter by 2004, would be as high as \$23 million.

Between the initial signing bonus and a second-tier option bonus, Leftwich will make a combined \$10.9 million. There is also a one-time roster bonus of \$500,000.

Negotiations took a positive turn late Monday night, when the two sides spoke until 11 p.m. The momentum continued through much of Tuesday, when the Jaguars and the representatives for Leftwich came to an accord on some final elements of the deal. At one point Tuesday, rookie head coach Jack Del Rio acknowledged to reporters that an agreement could be imminent.



# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Afghans Kill 13, Pushing Back Taliban, Al Qaeda

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (Washington Post) — Afghan forces in the south-eastern province of Khost said on Wednesday they killed 13 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters near the border with Pakistan while pushing back a major attack.

Border police Major Ghafar told *Reuters* two Afghan border policemen were killed in the clash, which started on Tuesday. He said two Arabs from Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network had been captured.

Ghafar said the insurgents used heavy guns, recoilless rifles, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades in their attack on a base used by a border battalion in the Shinkai area to the east of Khost and adjacent to the border with Pakistan.

"Their attack had three phases," Ghafar told *Reuters*. "The last attack lasted for several hours until 6:30 this morning and after that we staged a counter-attack and the sound you can hear is outgoing fire."

As he spoke by satellite phone, shellfire could be heard in the background.

Ghafar said authorities had not asked the U.S.-led coalition forces for air support as Afghan forces had been sufficiently strong to chase the insurgents from the area.

Khost was a major base area for the Taliban, which was driven from power by a U.S.-led coalition in late 2001.

Afghan and coalition forces have come under almost daily, but usually ineffective rocket attack in the east and southeast of the country. However, last month eight government soldiers were killed in a suspected Taliban attack near a market east of Khost. Last week six government soldiers and a driver for a U.S. aid agency were killed in a Taliban raid in the province of Helmand, while the fundamentalist group said it had killed five soldiers in separate attack in neighboring Kandahar province.

That death toll of 12 would be the biggest for a single day attributed to a resurgent Taliban guerrilla movement in many months, although local government officials denied the latter incident had been an attack and gave no casualty figure for it.

Ghafar described the Taliban and al Qaeda offensive in Khost as their biggest in the area since the Taliban fell.

"In the past, they have staged small-scale attacks, but this one was the most serious of all," he said.

He said he did not know how many guerrillas had taken part, but the attack had been led by Jalaluddin Haqqani, a top military commander and a former minister in the Taliban regime.

## U.S., Pakistani and Afghan officials discuss regional security after border shooting

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** (Associated Press) — A day after U.S. troops mistakenly killed two Pakistani soldiers along Afghanistan's eastern border, senior officials from all three countries held talks Tuesday and agreed to establish a three-way hot line to step up communications between them, the U.S. military said.

In a tripartite meeting at Bagram Air Base, headquarters of the U.S.-led

coalition in Afghanistan, the commission expressed regret over Monday's shooting incident and said it was being investigated.

"The parties stressed the need for greater coordination to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the future," the U.S. military said in a statement from Bagram, an hour's drive north of the capital.

"The commission decided to establish a three-way hot line between senior representatives of the three countries."

The meeting was the third of a special commission that includes Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United States. Established in April, the commission meets regularly to discuss security along the volatile Pakistan-Afghan border as well as other regional issues. The commission met in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, in June and again in Kabul in July.

A fourth meeting will take place in Pakistan in September, the statement said.

Delegations were led respectively by Afghan National Security Adviser Zalmay Rasul, Pakistani Maj. Gen. Ashfaq Kiyani and U.S. Maj. Gen. John Vines. Diplomats from all three nations also attended.

The U.S. military said Monday's shooting occurred after U.S. troops were fired on by several unidentified assailants near Orgun, a village close to the Pakistan border.

Coalition air support was called in and the assailants, fleeing toward the Pakistani border, were followed.

**"Doc, is the CV-22 fixed wing or rotary? My pilots are having an identity crisis."**



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support